IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
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IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 1 No. 2 April, 1968

Lester A. Harding - Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES -

The first issue of this publication was obtained from the printers on January 23, 1968 in time for the meeting of the Historical Society on that evening. Quite a few of the copies were distributed at that time and the response to the little magazine seemed to be quite favorable.

However, in looking through it, we find a few "bugs" that need to be corrected. On page 7 the April 6, 1957 should be April 6, 1857. On page 11 where it tells that Robert Mowry came to Neosho Falls in January, 1960 should have read 1860.

The names of two charter members were omitted. They were John Hase and Agnes Wyble. These names should be added to the list.

In this issue we will try and give some of the early history of Belmont. We have heard and read so much of the early days of Belmont that it seems difficult at times to separate fact from fiction. We will tell what we have learned about Fort Belmont in a later issue possibly under, The Civil War Comes to Woodson County.

We wish to give some credit now where credit is due and that is to Walter A. Bowers who spent much time and effort in getting the first issue printed. For there was the task of finding a printing concern who would print this publication at a price we thought we could afford and sell it at a price we thought people would pay for it. Four printing concerns in three towns were contacted. The Allen County News-Journal at Iola did the job.

WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The various committees are chosen and appointed by the Executive Board.

Committees:

Library--------Miss Ruth Augustine, chairman, Mrs. Avis Ireland and Mrs. Mary Ann Smith

Museum---------Russell Manske, chairman, Rose Mary Riley and Mrs. Ida Webb.

Historic Sites----------Leland Morris, chairman, Mrs. Marcella Wrampe and Frank Johnson.

Program--------Mrs. Clarie Giltner, chairman, Mrs. Lettie Streator and Frank Johnson

Membership-----This committee will be made up of the Executive Board and Board of Directors.

Tour Committee------Walter A. Bowers, chairman, Mrs. Ella Manske and Mrs. Virginia Morris.

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In Memoriam

Mrs. P. C. (Nellie) Peterson 85 January 16, 196

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Membership dues to Historical Society
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BELMONT
"The Town that Disappeared"

What seems to the writer to be the most controversial subject we ever did any research work and writing on is Belmont, both the town and fort. Perhaps one reason for this is that neither one had a very long span of life, the town possibly ten years and the fort less, and that being in the beginning of the county. It seems rather strange though that a place that seemed as important as Belmont was would disappear and leave so few records.

The town of Belmont was centered around the crossroads where the sections 32 and 33-T25-R15 form a corner with the center of the northwest quarter of section 4-T26-R15 along the Parallel line. This corner is four miles south and two miles west of Yates Center. The town was built along the wagon trail known as the Humboldt-Eureka Road, that was evidently first used about 1857.

A part of the old trail can still be traced east and south of the crossroad-Belmont corner as the trail came from Humboldt. From the corner the trail went northwest into the "Belmont Ozarks."

From the north was a trail designated as a military road bringing supplies to the hundreds of Indians that were camped along Big Sandy and its tributaries. This trail came from Ft. Leavenworth.

Andreas History of Kansas lists the first settler on Belmont Township as Reuben Daniels who came here in 1856 and built a log cabin on the east bank of Big Sandy Creek. This however was about eight miles to the southwest of the Belmont corner.

Somewhere near the Belmont corner, in 1856, B.F. Foster built a log cabin and established a trading post to trade with the Great and Little Osage Indian tribes that were camped along the tributaries of Big Sandy.

Johothan Foster homesteaded on the East half of the northwest quarter of section 4 T26-R15 mentioned above. No doubt that these Fosters were related and we place the trading post of B. F. Foster to the south west of the Belmont corner where a large spring is located.

It is hard to visualize now as one passes the Belmont crossroads, what a lively, busy and important place it was during the years during 1857 to 1865. There would be the clattering and creak of stagecoach and leather as the driver would pull up to the log hotel on the corner and then drive to the stage barn and exchange his tired horses for some fresh ones as the settlement of Belmont was a mainstop on the stage-line between Humboldt and Eureka and between Neosho Falls and southwest toward Coyville and Fort Rowe.

And there would be the rattle of the freighters wagon wheels and the sound of the oxen and mules as the wagons came along the rocky road to the west and north of the frontier town, and possibly the place where the freighters with their loads of material would come would be the blacksmith shop and perhaps the tavern, for in its hey-day Belmont is said to have had a general store, post office, hotel, stage barn, blacksmith shop, tavern and an Indian agency.

It has been said that the town boasted of five or six hundred inhabitants. This would seem to be an exaggeration as that would be a good-sized town. This population we believe would be the population of Belmont township as the 1870 census showed the township to have a population of 622.

It would be interesting to know where the town received the name of Belmont. The township was not organized until a year after the town was started.

The following is from the manuscript files at the Kansas State Historical Society:

"Fort Belmont, at town of Belmont, Belmont township. Archives Department has original bill, 1858, and original road plats which show that Belmont was located on parts of sections 32 and 33-25-15. The fort was earthworks thrown up during the Civil War."

Another letter from the Historical Society had this reply: "We cannot locate the original council bill; (about Fort Belmont) Apparently it did not pass because we find nothing on the bill or Woodson County in the 1858 laws."

Just when Joel Moody and his wife Lizzie came to Belmont is not known, but on June 1, 1861 a patent was issued to Joel Moody for the East half of the Southeast quarter of section 32 and the West half of the Southwest quarter of section 33-T25R15. Evidently Moody had this claim before this but this was the first that he could make a legal claim to the land that he and others had only a "squatters right" to. And it is to Joel Moody that we will give the credit of founding the town of Belmont.

A plat of the town was evidently never recorded with the Register of Deeds of Woodson County, but a plat was made and lots were sold. The first record we find of this was recorded with the Register-of-Deeds on April 5, 1862, when Joel Moody and wife Lizzie Moody gave a warrenty deed to Lydia M. Pearsall to Lots 16, 17,18 and 25 feet on north part of lot 15, all in Block 47, Town of Belmont, for a consideration of $150 and was before Wallace D. McCune, Justice of the Peace, Woodson County.

Also on this same day, Joel Moody and wife Lizzie sold Lots 17 and 18 in Block 26 to Charles Barreck for $25, Town of Belmont.

This same year a group of soldiers went through Belmont. One of them recorded that the town consisted of about 20 log cabins. We will tell more of this later.

We will go back to the beginning of the frontier log cabin settlement.

The following evidently written to the editor, appeared on the "Herald of Freedom", Lawrence, Kansas, under the date of February 13, 1858.

Belmont, January 29, 1858

This is a new town in the center of Woodson County, beautifully located on Sandy Creek. It is located on the map near where Nicaragua is placed, there being no town of that name in the county. There are beautiful permanent springs of soft, clear water in and near this town and good sandstone for building. Good claims can be had here, some timber and some prairie.

It has not frozen here this winter so hard but that it has thawed out during the day. People have not fed their stock cattle, and they are doing well. The spring birds are singing here as in April.

Robins, bluejays and peewees are out with their spring songs nearly every day. We sit with doors open and coats off perfectly comfortable. The emigrants who are living in open cabins and wagons feel the blessing of having, "the winds tempered to the shorn lamb".

We need a saw mill. We have sent a petition to have our county organized and this town made a county seat, as there is no other near here.

"C"

The name of a relative of Jonothan Foster was Clarineta C. Foster, which makes one wonder if she were the writer of the letter as they lived near the Belmont corner at that time. Clarineta C. Foster was one of the first postmasters of Belmont.

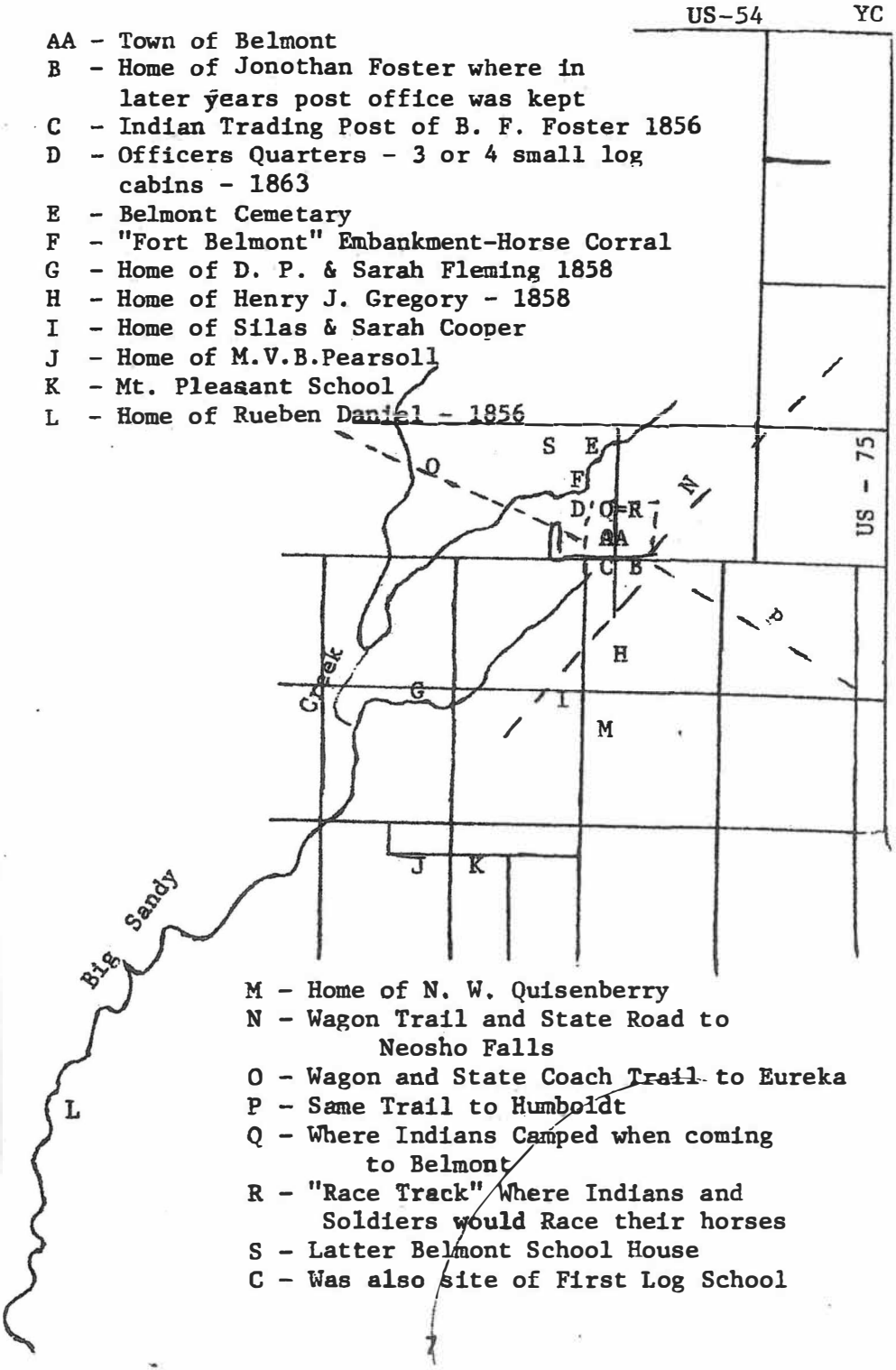
The first post office was established at Belmont September 21, 1857 with John W. Lowe as the first master. Charles Cameron was the next postmaster taking over that position on January 14, 1858. The name of Charles Cameron is found frequently in the early history of Woodson County.

On February 2, 1858, Commission issued this day to Charles Cameron, as notary public for Woodson County, residing at Belmont. (This commission was issued at Lawrence, Kansas Territory, by J. W. Denver, secretary and also acting Governor), making Cameron the first to hold that position in Woodson County. He was also the first clerk of probate court of the county being elected to that office in the first election ever held in the county, May 22, 1858. Cameron was also clerk of the first board of county supervisors.

The first election held at Belmont was held September 16, 1858, at the house of "Lowe and French".

Names we find listed around the town of Belmont in 1857 the year it was probably settled and the following year 1858. Besides Rueben Daniels and B. F. Foster already mentioned were - John Lowe, Charles Cameron, Albert L. Dunn, John Dunn and L. Dunn, the latter two being doctors. Albert L. and L. Dunn may be the same one. N. J. Lowe, Albert Pearsoll, N. J. Spellman, James W. Madaris, Jonothan Foster, Silas Cooper, Henry J. Gregory, who lived in Gregory Valley a mile to the south of Belmont, _____French, Joel Moody, founder of the town, M.U.B. Pearsoll, D. P. Fleming 1858. The First Christian Church was organized in the Fleming home.

AA - Town of Belmont
B - Home of Jonothan Foster where in later years post office was kept
C - Indian Trading Post of B. F. Foster 1856
D - Officers Quarters - 3 or 4 small log cabins - 1863
E - Belmont Cemetary
F - "Fort Belmont" Embankment-Horse Corral
G - Home of D. P. & Sarah Fleming 1858
H - Home of Henry J. Gregory - 1858
I - Home of Silas & Sarah Cooper
J - Home of M.V.B.Pearsoll
K - Mt. Pleasant School
L - Home of Rueben Daniel - 1856



M - Home of N. W. Quisenberry
N - Wagon Trail and State Road to Neosho Falls
O - Wagon and State Coach Trail to Eureka
P - Same Trail to Humboldt
Q - Where Indians Camped when coming to Belmont
R - "Race Track" Where Indians and Soldiers would Race their horses
S - Latter Belmont School House
C - Was also site of First Log School

Some First's At Belmont

The first doctors in the county seem to be at Belmont. Two brothers, Drs. John and L. Dunn were at Belmont in 1857. The only mention we found of them being doctors is recorded in the History of Allen and Woodson Counties.

William Stockebrand, one of the county's first pioneers was wounded by an Indian in December, 1857 and soon after went to the log town of Belmont where he was treated by the Dunn Brothers.

The Dunns, however did not remain long at the town of Belmont. The reason for their leaving will never be known as one of them was apprehended and taken care of by a group of "vigilantees", in Southeast Kansas. The other made his way into Texas and was known to be living somewhere in Oklahoma in later years.

About 1862 a Dr. Logwood came to the town of Belmont. However he was not too popular as he was charged with the mistake of inoculating the entire vicinity with smallpox virus instead of the milder form of vaccine. This was at the time of the smallpox epidemic in the Belmont and Big Sandy vicinities and many of the pioneers died from the effects of it as did a good many of the Indians camped in that area.

The first church and Sunday School organized in that area was less than three miles to the south and west of the Belmont corner at the cabin of D.P. and Sarah Fleming in 1859. It was probably the first Christian Church in the county. The Flemings had come to that branch of Big Sandy in 1858 This is known at this time as the Wm. Bressner farm

A log school house was built on the southwest corner of the Belmont corner, but we found no record of this school.

It has been written that the town of Belmont was destroyed by the Quantrill raiders during or shortly after the Civil War. This however has been discounted by the Kansas Historical Society in view of the fact that Quantrill never raided this far into Kansas.

We were told that several years after the town had been abandoned the remains of the log buildings were all destroyed by fire.

To the west of the Mt. Pleasant school was the homestead of M.V.B.Pearsoll. The Pearsoll's were leaders in the Christian Church there and at Mt. Pleasant later.

Charles Cameron at Belmont was the first notary public and also the first clerk of the board of supervisors (Commissioners) of Woodson County.

One of the stage coach drivers mail carriers that would come into the log town of Belmont was Frank M. Henley, at that time a boy of around 18 years old. Henley later settled in the Big Sandy vicinity of which we will tell more about later.

The Silas Cooper mentioned took care of the stage coach horses in the big log barn at the town. His wife Sarah worked in the hotel or tavern on the southeast corner of the town.

M.V.B. Pearsoll was 2nd Lieut., N. W. Quisenberry and Henry J. Gregory were sergents in the Militia that drilled at Belmont during the Civil War. We will tell more about them later.

The building we referred to as the Indian Agency or trading post has also been called the fort at Belmont, and we believe it may have been used as such when a calvary troop would be there before the militia was organized there.

The building was made of rock and earth to a certain heighth, then of logs on top.

At a very early day, itenerant Methodist preachers would occasionally travel the indefinite circuit known as Southwestern Kansas.

In 1860 the first regular Circuit consisting of Greenwood, Wilson, Butler, Woodson Counties was cut off and called the Eureka Circuit. Rev. T. B. Woodard was the Circuit Minister and succeeded in gathering a membership of 20. In 1861 the Circuit was changed to Belmont and W. H. Travis was the Circuit minister.

Rev. C. Meadows served in 1863 and resided at Belmont, then quite a town. In 1865 the Belmont Circuit was divided and Eureka was again the Circuit point.

Lonely Graves

On a sandy, blackjack covered hill somewhere on one of the many branches of Big Sandy Creek are the unmarked and unknown graves of an Indian Princess and her father Hopoerthleyohola who was an important chief of one of the tribes of the Creek Indians that came to the Big Sandy area during the Civil War. These graves are supposed to be somewhere to the west of the site of the old town of Belmont.

Hopo (for short) would not join the Confederacy at the outbreak of the Civil War and was told by Union emissaries that if he would bring his tribes to Kansas they would be supplied with plenty food, clothing and ammunition. He was chosen as head chief of around 9,000 Indians of several different tribes as they started for Kansas. After much difficulty they reached Fort Rowe where Big Sandy Creek enters the Verdigris River. From there many of the Indians moved up the Big Sandy Valley.

Here during the hard winter of 1861-62 many of these Indians died of starvation and many contacted the White man's plague-consumption. Among these who contacted this disease was a beautiful Indian Princess, the daughter of Chief Hopo.

As the story unfolds it seems that Chief Hopo and some of his warriors were over in Greenwood County hunting when an Indian runner found them and told the rumor that a hostile group of Indians were about to attack the Hopo camp on Big Sandy Creek. Hopo and warriors started back. Their horses were poor and weak and before long the horses gave out and the men all continued on foot except Hopo whose horse was better than the others. However before reaching the camp this horse gave out.

When his horse seemingly could go no further Hopo dismounted, cut a gash in the horse's shoulder and poured some gunpowder into the cut. Mounting the horse again as the faithful horse in agony ran and staggered on. As Hopo reached the camp the horse fell dead. Hopo discovered that the rumor of invaders was false, but he was met by people of the camp telling him of the death of his daughter, the Princess.

The next day around 2000 Indians men, women and children gathered around the bed of leaves and grass where the Princess lay. A large ceremonial was held as the Princess was buried.

Soon after this Chief Hopo went to Fort Leavenworth in another effort to obtain help for his people. He died with a broken heart from grieving over the death of his daughter and from disappointment being denied the privilege of leading his warriors in fighting for his adapted country.

Thus a great leader and important Chief of the Creek Indians and his daughter the Princess lie in unknown and forgotten graves somewhere on a hill west of the old townsite of Belmont, possibly overlooking the Big Sandy Valley.

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Note: A part of this was taken from an article written by T. F. Morrison of Chanute. We have also read where this chief was called Opothle Yohola.

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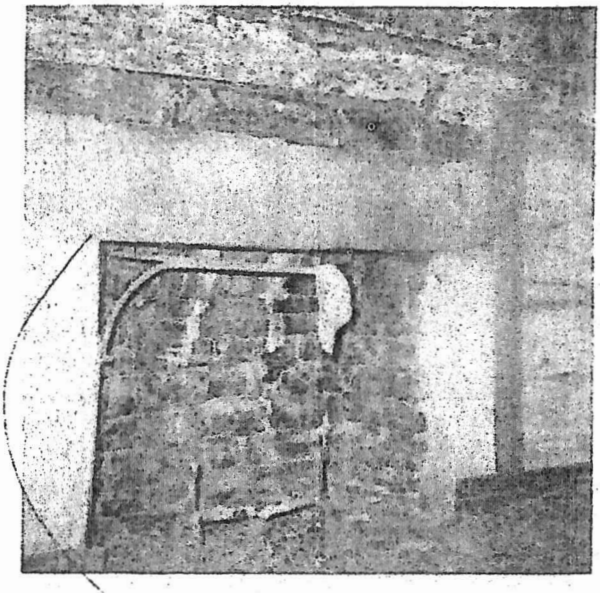

The above picture is the old fire place on the west end of the old log cabin, with the pot hook fastened to the rock and the andirons in place.

In the spring of 1859 a covered wagon slowly made its way across the prairie following the wagon trail from LeRoy to the southwest along Turkey Creek. Along a spring fed branch about a quarter mile north of Turkey Creek the wagon came to the end of its long journey from Logan county, Ohio. In the wagon was David Askren, Charlotte his wife, their baby daughter Elizabeth and David's brother, John S. Askren.

Near where a spring of cold clear water surfaced, close to the edge of this stream they built their cabin. This cabin was about 16 feet square and about 10 feet to the eaves with a crude stairway going to the loft or upstairs.

The logs were all of oak and walnut and were hued and squared to around eight and ten inches square. A door was built in the east side with the large stone fireplace in the west end of the cabin. The logs were "chinked" and filled in between with a morter that looks like the red sandy soil on the place. Where ever there was a large crack, a piece was split off a log and fitted in place and held there with a round wooden peg that was driven into a hole bored in the log. The logs were notched to fit together on the corners.

The large stone fireplace was made of native sandstone and was quite a piece of masonry itself. The base of the fireplace is about six by three feet on the outside before it begins to narrow down to about three by a foot and a half at the top. The entire fireplace is about 16 feet high. The hearth-stone on the inside is about six by three feet. The open fireplace is about three feet wide, two feet deep and three feet high. The flue is only about six inches wide where it curves away from the logs.

The old iron crane with a pot hook on one end is still bolted into the stones. The bottom part of the fireplace is mostly smaller stones while nearer the top are stones that must weigh around a hundred pounds apiece. David Askren became a pillar in this locality rearing his family and taking part in many local and county affairs. The cemetary, school and locality was named for him,.His son John Wm. Askren was born in the log cabin in February 1860 and was

evidently the first child born in this settlement along upper Turkey Creek. Two more daughters were born to the Askrens, Charlotte, who married John Klingenburg and Margaret who passed away when a teen-age girl.

The year of 1860 was a trying year for the new settlers along Turkey Creek because of the terrible drouth. This drouth started in June, 1860 soon after the Askrens came here. No rain or snow fell throughout the fall and winter of 1859-60. Spring came and still no rain. The pioneers tilled the soil and planted crops but spring and summer passed and still no rain. The upper part of Turkey Creek went practicily dry before the rain started in September, 1860.

In November, 1860 John S. Askren obtained a mortgage of $150 on 160 acres. The homestead at that time was eighty acres running north and south with the Askren Branch running full length and the adjoining eighty acres lying east and west with Turkey Creek running the full length along the north side of it.

In the general election of Woodson County in November 1861 there were around 100 votes cast in the county. John S. Askren was elected as county assessor, however he did not get to serve in his new office. The Civil War had started and come to Kansas. On November 20, John S. Askren along with a number of others from Turkey Creek went to Neosho Falls and enlisted in Company F of the Ninth Regiment Kansas Volunteer Calvary. Askren was 28 years old at the time of his enlistment but his army career was cut short as he died February 22, 1862 at Iola and was buried in Iola.

David Askren, his wife, four children, two son-in-laws and several grandchildren were all buried in the Askren Cemetery that was named for them.

Since the story of the Askren log cabin was written and typed we found that the old cabin is standing no longer. The logs have fallen away from the fireplace, leaving that wonderful piece of rock masonary still standing. The cover picture of the cabin was taken by Richard Fouts when the cabin was 100 years old.

Toronto Topic - Friday, Oct. 1, 1886

Official Paper of Toronto

The St. Louis, Ft. Scott & Wichita railroad in connection with the Mo. Pac. Ry., is now running morning and evening trains daily, including Sundays, to Kansas City and St. Louis. Palace reclining chair cars free to St. Louis without change. Pullman Palace Sleeping cars on evening trains. Forty-eight miles the shortest line to St. Louis. The shortest direct line to Texas and souther points by which the passenger avoids extra travel, depot transfers and vexatious delays. All Texas points are local to this system.

P.J. LEIMBACH, Agent

Official Directory - City of Toronto

Mayor.....Frank Hall
Police Judge.....G. W. Remmele
City Clerk.....S. C. Kinblade
City Marshall.....Jas. Radley
Councilmen...T. Q. Morgan, Alex McLeod, J. Harp, F. W. Carroll and M. J. Grider

James T. Cannady, sheriff of Woodson County and G. R. Stephenson, connty attorney, were in the city yesterday.

Mr. Smith Wilhite says he will give one hundred dollars toward building a new bridge at Toronto, when bonds are voted and the new railroad gets here.

The Messrs. of Toronto, shipped from this place last week two cars of fat cattle, which were on the train which met with the terrible accident near Kansas City, and one of the brothers was on the train in charge of the cattle. Fortunately their cattle were in the last two cars and escaped with some bruises and a few horns knocked off. Mr. Singleton was considerably shaken up, but escaped injury.

A pumpkin raised by Mr. Ledgerwood, near Toronto was purchased by a gentleman of Anderson County, and shipped there this week, weighing 110 pounds.

Considerable discussion has been engendered by the action of the city marshall in impounding cows and stock found upon streets at night. Another ordinance provision will soon be in force namely; That livestock shall not be allowed to run loose during either day or night from the 15th of November till the 15th of March. Must be kept up all winter.

A State Business Directory of 1882-83 gives the following information about Woodson County. (continued from the last issue)

Yates Center, population 500, county seat settled in 1876, Center of the county and is 15 miles from Neosho Falls and is on the westward extention of the St. Louis, Fort Scott and Wichita Railroad. Has three churches, Christian, Methodist and Congregational; a public school, two hotels, and has one newspaper, the Yates Center News. Land may be had for from $10 to $40 per acre. Stage daily to Humboldt, Neosho Falls and Toronto. Adams Express. Mail daily, L. J. Wells, postmaster.

S. J. Bacon, Druggist - D. T. Baker, Blacksmith
W. H. Bailey, Register of Deeds
H. S. Baursfeld, Livestock - A. Brown, Restaurant
John Callihan, Shoemaker - B. F. Clayton,Livery
Central House, F. G. Lange, Prop.
G. W. Davis, Sheriff - J. W. Depew, Co. Treasurer
Fannie Dryden, Dressmaker
N. F. Follett, Cashier Woodson County Bank
A. L. Freeman, Hardware and stoves
Wm. Hogueland, Clerk District Court
H. H. Hubbard, Restaurant
John Jacobs,Shoemaker - S. Johnson, Furniture
I. S. Jones, Probate Judge
Mrs. Kay, Milliner - James Keeney, Livestock
Keeney and Curtain, Druggists
Thomas Lanborn, General Store
F. G. Lange, Central House prop.
McRay, Wagonmaker - T. McSperrits, Blacksmith
C. C. Mills, General Store
Palmer, Jewett and Co., General Store
J. E. Pickett, Lawyer
Rev. J. E. Pickett (Christian)
H. W. Richardson, Supt. Public Instruction
J. W. Shivley, Lawyer - A. Stewart, Lawyer
Slavins and Fry, The News Prop's.
George R. Stephenson, Lawyer
A. Stewart, Lawyer - C. A. Stutz, Jeweler
E. Stewart, Harness maker
W. F. Taylor, Prop. Taylor House

Wm. H. Thuber, Lawyer
H. S. Trueblood, County Clerk
Dr. J. W. Turner, Druggist
Van Slyke and Carroll, Hardware
Walker and Chellis, Contractors and builders
R. R. Wells, express agent, stationer and notions
H. W. West, Physician - E. V. Wharton, Physician
Mrs. Anna Williams, Phot
T. W. Wilson, General Store
G. H. Wright, Restaurant

Neosho Falls, population 750, on the Neosho River, a splendid water power stream at this point, 16 miles northeast of Yates Center, 76 miles from Topeka and 101 miles from Kansas City. Four churches, Methodist, Universalist, Presbyterian, and Congregational. Good public schools, a hotel, Woolen, saw and flour mills, Weekly newspaper, The Woodson County Post. Magnificent fair grounds here. Improved land $15 to $25 per acre. Unimproved $5 to $10. Woolen goods, grain, livestock and lumber form the shipments. Stage daily to Colony, 12 miles and to Yates Center, Fare $1.00 to each place. Telegraph, Western Union, Express Pacific and Adams.

Mail Daily, Richard P. Hamm, Postmaster
W. E. Abbey, Livery
Mrs. J. W. Adams and Co. Hardware
Henry F. Beal, Watchmaker, jewelry, police magistrate and justice
John F. Beard, Livestock - John F. Bidwell, Grocer
Joseph Bishop, General Store
S. A. Brown and Co., Lumber
Ebenezer Bunton, Blacksmith
W. L. Chellis, Prop, Woodson County Post
Clark & Co. (Timothy L. Clark) General Store
Henry D. Dickson, Lawyer - John H. Duke, Barber
James W. Dickson, Loan Agent
Falls House, H. Harrison Inness, Prop.
Wm. Farrall, Wagonmaker - Wm. A. Fezler, Furniture
David W. Finney, Hardware
Clark H. Goodrich, Livery and Adams Express Ag.
N. S. Goss, Ornithologist and Lawyer

David Gwinn, Druggist
Stephen Hamilton, Shoemaker
Richard P. Hamm, Bookseller and Stationer
Wm J. Haughawout, Real Estate
Rev. H. B. Haviland (Presbyterian)
Christian Henson, Blacksmith
Bernard Himrod, Livestock
Samuel H. Hogueland, Harness
Frank R. Hubbard, Wagonmaker
Robert Inge, Livestock
Harrison Inness, Prop. Falls House
John L. Jones, Physican
Rev. J. L. Longdon (Methodist)
Samuel Mitchner, Meat Market
Philip M. Moore, Loan Agent
Wm. L. Parsons, Neosho Falls Water Mills, Mfg. flour, and lumber. (See adv. Manufacturer "Hearts Content" flour. Bills of lumber cut to order)
Mrs. M. A. Pierce, Hotel Prop.
Thomas W. Read, Baker - Horace G. Slavens, Phys.
Wm W. Sain, Grocer and hardware
W. P. Sharp, Woolen Mills, (See Adv. Neosho Valley Woolen Mills, mfg. of jeans wool, shirtings, flannels and yarns in all colors and dealer in wool.)
Jabez. H. Small, Axe Handle Maker
Albert S. Solanders, Blacksmith
Staley_____, Livestock
John H. Sticker, Baker
Rev. Q. C. Todd, (Congregational)
Phillip Wagner, Tailor
Charles W. Waterman, Agent MPRR, Western Union telegraph and Pacific Express.
Absolom Wentling, General Store
Williams and Jones (Mrs. S. J. Williams, Mrs. Dora Jones) Druggists.
A. T. Wolford, Blacksmith

CONSTITUTION
of the
WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Article I - Name of Organization

The name of this organization shall be the Woodson County Historical Society. It shall be a non-profit organization.

Article II - Object and purpose

The object and purpose of the Society shall be:

(1) To collect, to preserve, and to display historical records and items of Woodson County and the State of Kansas; and to promote the preservation and marking of historical buildings and sites with in the county.

(2) To encourage interest in local history; and

(3) To co-operate with the Kansas State Historical Society.

Article III - Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in the work and purposes of this Society.

There shall be three classes of membership in the Society: Annual Membership, for which the dues are $2.00; Contributing Member $5.00 or more and Life Membership at $25.00. A class for student membership may be set up at the discretion of the Society.

Article IV - Officers and their duties

The officers of the Society shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and six Directors.

The duties of the President shall be to preside at the meetings of the Society and of the Administrative Board, and to perform all other duties relating to such office; to appoint committees; to appoint a Historian who may form a committee if desired.

The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of that officer.

The Secretary shall issue all calls or notices of meetings, and shall keep a careful record of all

business done in meetings with the exact wording of every motion and its disposal.

The Secretary shall maintain an up-to-date roster of annual and life members; keep it co-ordinated with the Treasurer's list of members in good standing; notify members whose dues are delinquent; receive dues from new and old members; issue membership cards.

The Treasurer shall keep all funds belonging to the Society; have custody of all securities owned by it; keep a record of all financial transactions of the organization; pay all bills as directed by the president, or Administrative Board; and make a complete report of the finances of the organization at the Annual Meeting and at such other times as directed.

Article V - Administrative Board

The affairs of the society shall be administered by an Administrative Board composed of the officers and directors, and the Chairmen of Standing Committees.

Article VI - Meeting and Duties of the Administrative Board

Meetings of the Administrative Board shall be held at least four times a year, with special called meetings in addition if deemed necessary by the president , dates and places of meetings to be fixed by the President and notices thereof given by the Secretary. One of these shall be designated as the Annual Meeting. At all stated meetings of the Board, the membership may attend.

The duties of the Administrative Board shall be:

(1) To authorize the appointment of Committees;
(2) To act on the recommendations of the Executive Committee of officers and directors and of the chairmen of the Standing committees;
(3) To sponsor the organization, establishment and maintenance of a Museum;
(4) To approve a budget and plan of action for any project undertaken by the Society.

Article VII - Committees

A - Library Committee - Responsible for the collection, cataloging, care, arrangement and repair of books, manuscripts, newspapers and other library materials.

B - Museum Committee - Responsible for the collection cataloging, cleaning, repairing, care and storage of historic objects, for arranging museum exhibits and for the correct historic interpretion of these exhibits; and for the care and upkeep of museum quarters.

C - Historic Sites Committee - Responsible for establishing the historic validity of sites proposed for marking; for marking historic sites.

D - Program Committee - Responsible for arranging suitable programs, for setting time, place and date of meetings.

E - Membership Committee - Responsible for membership drives and for processing applications for membership.

F - Tour Committee - To plan, make arrangements to get permission to cross land to get to historic places and arrange for transportation.

Article VIII - Terms of Office

The officers of the Historical Society shall be elected for terms of two years.'

The directors shall be elected for 2, 4 and 6 year terms, two to retire and two to be chosen at each election period.

Article IX - Elections

During the last quarter of each even-numbered year, the president shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of three members, to choose one or more canidates for each of the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and two members for the Board of Directors.

Elections shall be conducted at the first meeting after January 1 of each odd-numbered years.

Voting shall be by a show of hands and a yes vote by the majority present. shall determine the persons elected.